

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 668

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to commend Bethel Newport for his honorable and astute services to the people of Tennessee and honor him on the celebration of his 84th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bethel Newport is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, a native of Oneida and a longtime resident of Putnam County, Mr. Newport is a highly respected resident of the city of Algood; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure in Putnam County government, he has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, at the celebrated age of 84, this remarkable man has dedicated his life to improving the lives of Putnam County residents; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Newport served this state and country for four years in the Navy; he then moved to Cookeville where he attended Tennessee Technological University (TTU) and taught seventh grade classes in Norma; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from Tennessee Tech, Mr. Newport was called upon to serve his country as a member of The United States Navy during World War II, in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newport was first elected to the Cookeville City Council in 1958; he held the esteemed position through 1967 and has remained an active and valued member of the local government in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, Bethel's remarkable tenure in city government includes his service as Vice Mayor, Finance Director, City Manager, and as a Planning Commission Board Member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newport has served in all three types of government systems for the city of Cookeville, including the three-man council, five-man council, and a city manager and five-man council combination; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Newport's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Newport's more noted accomplishments was securing a \$28 million federal Model Cities designation grant; the money funded numerous projects and programs in the late 1960s and early 1970s including the restoration of the rundown West Cookeville neighborhood, the building of the Cookeville Drama Center and the Police Department Building; and

WHEREAS, during his exemplary public service he was instrumental in the building of the water plant at Center Hill Lake and a new Cookeville City Hall in 1967; and

WHEREAS, it has been observed that, "he runs a tight ship, especially where spending is concerned"; Mr. Newport retired from his post as City Administrator, and left the government with an surplus of funds; and

WHEREAS, his intense dedication to public service and desire to assist the people of Cookeville brought Mr. Newport out of retirement in 1998 and he returned to serve as City Administrator; his efforts helped the town earn the highest ranking a state-certified CPA could award to a municipality; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Newton is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who? life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton's many accomplishments aside, he is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his devoted wife; and

WHEREAS, Bethel Newton is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Mr. Bethel Newport for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as Algood City Administrator, congratulate him on his 84th birthday, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.